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## Court adds online option for paying traffic tickets

**Norman Sinclair / The Detroit News**

**DETROIT** -- For thousands of people who each year suffer in notoriously long lines paying traffic tickets at the 36th District Court in Detroit, relief is now just a computer click away.

The state's busiest court now offers online access that allows anyone getting a traffic ticket in Detroit to pay over the Internet using a credit or debit card. People without access to a computer can still pay over the telephone. Until now the court did not accept credit cards.

J. Otis Davis, the court administrator, said in addition to avoiding long lines, the public and court will realize other benefits from the new system.

"It eliminates the time and cost of coming down to the court," said Davis. "They don't have to take time out of their day to drive here, they won't pay for gas, they don't have to pay the expensive parking especially when they have special events downtown when parking is outrageous."

If a ticket is lost violators can search for their case online by entering their name, driver's license number or license plate and retrieve the necessary information to take care of the ticket. People with multiple tickets can pay one or more than one at the same time.

In the future additional enhancements will allow those with suspended driver's licenses or bench warrants to take care of those fines online but for now they will still have to do so in person, Davis said.

Chief Judge Marilyn Atkins said the 24-hour online system will make the state's busiest court much more efficient.

"We sometimes have as many as 2,500 people down there paying tickets or fines," Atkins said. More than 500,000 cases are processed through the court each year.

The new system is part of the State of Michigan's eCourt's program to make government more convenient and accessible to more people.

Users can log onto [www.36thdistrictcourt.org](http://www.36thdistrictcourt.org), click to "Pay Tickets Here" and follow instructions. Those without online access can call (313) 965-2200 during normal business hours.

*You can reach Norman Sinclair at (313) 222-2034 or [nsinclair@detnews.com](mailto:nsinclair@detnews.com).*